Mrs. M.E.Tilly
62 Auburn Ave., N.E.
Atlanta 3, Ga.

The Petal Paper

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 1957 SINGLE COPY TEN CENTS VOL 4, NUMBER 38

East Side

By P. D.

Having grown weary of teeth on television I decided to attend a drive-in movie recently. There were two titles displayed on the marquee; not wanting to see both movies, I asked of the owner which would show first.

"Oh, this thing about America," he said. "I guess they're trying to cram some more of that stuff down our throats. It's got old Lincoln in it making a speech."

I decided to see that "thing about America." It wasn't but 45 minutes long, and was titled "Down Freedom Road." Frankly, it was fairly lousy, as compared to what it could have been, but that was all right, too.

And it did have "Old Lincoln" in it, delivering his Gettysburg Address. The actor, whom I know not, made a poor delivery, in my opinion. But the words spoken by Lincoln on that occasion moved me deeply . . . they always have. (After that came Gray Cooper with a couple of six-shooters, cleaning out the bad men, but good and proper. That's what I went to see, anyway.)

Letters

New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. East,

As a botanist the name of your paper attracted my attention immediately. However, frankly I had never heard of Petal, Mississippi in my life. Read the paper for some time before it suddenly struck me that Petal was a town. Since I found the paper in a "Morphogenesis" laboratory (where I cannot say or the institution would be involved and it is a government Commission), I assumed that it was a plant journal of some kind . . .

Then I saw an add from the Petal Drug Store, and a light bulb glowed . . . this was a town's paper! You must surely think I am slow-witted; you are not really totally incorrect, for that matter.

But even with slow wits it was not difficult to find your editorials absolutely wonderfully honest. You slice thru lies like a microtome thru parafin (I am a botanist and we use the microtome for slicing thru paraffin). In slicing you leave a section of the material sliced which is more easily understood and exposes the remaining material to the open air and to the eye and mind.

I note that you have a little book of your editorials for the amount which our American dollar is usually quoted as being

Can't Say About Diogenes —

But We'd Turn The Light Down Low

The 20th state admitted to the union was Mississippi, in 1817, on December 10th.

The 2nd state to withdraw from the union was Mississippi, in 1861, on January 2nd.

In the 140 years we've been a state we've had good years and we've had lean years. (The leanest of all being from 1861 to 1869.) We've had good and bad, however, we've always had a shortage of two items: cash and honest politicians.

It is our opinion that we would have the cash, provided we ever got an honest politician, the possibility of which seems remote at the moment. (By honest we mean a man who would be willing to tell the citizens of the state the truth, as he sees it, instead of telling them what they want to hear, which at times seems to be anything but the truth, however relative.)

In less than two years from this writing there will be a bunch of tailess anthropoids (and brainless) roaming the state seeking the office of Governor. At this moment they are preparing themselves for that great day; some are already yelling "Nigger," some are harping that old old song about State's Rights, while others are trying to put the blame on Maine, Boy!

It seems to us these potentials have the idea that the citizens of Mississippi want to hear this rot. And many might well want to, we wouldn't deny that possibility. But there are thousands and thousands of decent, honest, fairly logical people who would like to face reality for a change. We believe the number to be great . . . silent though they be.

What about a platform for these people? An honest office seeker? A realist with a conscience, social and political? What would happen if such a man appeared on the scene?

Well, frankly, we don't propose to have the answer to these and other questions. We can only hope that such a person will make his appearance on the political scene here in the state. We can only hope that sanity and reason will one day rule.

How could a man such as we have in mind make a campaign

By P. D.

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And it did have "Old Lincoln" in it, delivering his Gettysburg Address. The actor, whom I know not, made a poor delivery, in my opinion. But the words spoken by Lincoln on that occasion moved me deeply . . . they always have. (After that came Gray Cooper with a couple of six-shooters, cleaning out the bad men, but good and proper. That's what I went to see, anyway.)

But while sitting there watching the feature I began thinking about a theatre owner feeling the necessity to apologize for the words of Lincoln. The more I thought about it the more indigent I became. Of course, being a coward, I said nothing to the man. What was the point?

Was Lincoln, the greatest man yet produced by this Nation, so bad that he had to be apolgized for to me, and I'm sure, to others? But for him this would not have been the Nation it is today; but for him we'd have been 48 Balkan States, if that much. And to apolgize for Lincoln!

In the movie short shown at the Dixiecrat Theater it showed only Lincoln delivering his Gettysburg Address. There was nothing about the Emancipation Proclamation, not one word.

And it may be of interest to note that on the night before the Gettysburg Address Lincoln asked the band to play "Dixie." I mention that just in passing.

Said Lincoln: "We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting-place of those who gave their lives that that nation might live." He did not say we have come to dedicate a place for Yankees that they might rule the Nation. But for Lincoln, an apology?

I don't think so. But I do indeed believe anyone attempting to apologize for Abe Lincoln needs apologizing for.

Perhaps Mr. Lincoln's address just might be a good thing to read at this time. It goes like this:

"Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

"Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting-place for those who have here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

"But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate — we cannot consecrate — we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us — that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause

(Continued on Page 2)

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I note that you have a little book of your editorials for the amount which our American dollar is usually quoted as being worth. With the next post I will send you this amount for I should more than love to read them.

Thank you for changing some of my opinions of the South, some of the embarrassment which I feel for a part of our Nation. Things are not as black as they seem when we have Americans in the South like you.

Respectfully,
Lawrence J. Crockett.

Watch On The POTOMAC

by
Robt. G. Spivack

THE REAL EISENHOWER — It's sometimes difficult at the President's press conferences to tell when he is expressing his own ideas or voicing somebody elses. There are times when the President looks puzzled and scratches his ear, that he is, in fact, least puzzled. At other times when he is rattling off something on which he has been "briefed" it's obvious he is moving in unfamiliar waters.

After four years of covering his weekly news conferences we readily confess to our continuing bewilderment on this point. But we think—and mind you, historians may prove this is totally wrong—that it was the "real" Eisenhower who got off the following comment on the right-to-vote:

". . . If in every locality every person otherwise qualified, or qualified under the laws of the State to vote, is permitted to vote he has got a means of taking care of himself and his group, his class.

"He has got a means of getting what he wants in democratic government, and that is the one on which I place the greatest emphasis."

In other words, the President was trying to cut through the carefully contrived confusion cre-

(Continued on Page 2)

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How could a man such as we have in mind make a campaign for the office of Governor? What could he say in an effort to be honest with the people whose votes he hopes to win? How could he convince them, or could he? How could he translate political idealism into politicial realty?

We think it can be done, possibly, in one way, and that is by being honest to the point that it hurts, or seems to hurt; such honesty, based on fairness, will, we believe, be received first with shock, followed by rapt attention, and finally by a conviction to try to do what we know by reason to be decent.

You don't think so? Well, perhaps not.

Were such a hoped for and idealistic man to appear on the Mississippi scene seeking the office of Governor we would like to hear him say, in effect:

He wanted to be Governor of Mississippi because he was concerned over a state of affairs which had caused him an amount of worry, the energy of which could have been used to produce, to have created in his lifetime something of value for people yet unborn, not even to mention his fellow-citizens of his day.

His platform would be based on one word: Fairness. Fairness to him would mean several things, among them Justice, Honesty, Virtue, and Conscience. Perhaps Webester doesn't define fairness in such a manner, but he would, and he has to live with himself, not Webster.

He would hold that the Constitution of these United States is as fair in its scope as man has yet been able to devise. He would hold it to be good, realizing, of course, that good is a relative term. He would hold that the laws of this Nation must be obeyed, for, after all, the law is based on the Constitution. He would not mean to say or to imply that he thinks all the decisions made by the United States Supreme Court relative to an interpretation of laws are good; however, he would sill hold that the law must be obeyed and he would so hold because if any single person is allowed to break a law without consequence then his family is not safe, nor is he, nor are you.

He would not hold with the decision on school integration. He would think he understood why such a decision was made; he would believe we brought it on ourselves by our refusal to face up to our obligation. He would ask you to keep in mind that we had something like sixty-four years to comply not just with the Federal law, but with our own commitment stated in our State Constitution which we adopted in 1890. He would favor a segregated school system, yes. But he would have asked himself many times, "What price will I be willing to pay for it?" And he would ask of you the same question. "Are we willing to destroy a system of government and education which has time and time again proved its worth just to have two school buildings? What price are you willing to pay?"

And that he would have to leave to you and your conscience. But as for him, he would refuse to destroy that which is rightfully his children's and their childrens just to satisfy his own ambitions.

He would hold that men are equal under the law and any infringement thereof is a direct threat to him personally, as surely you must realize it to be a threat to you. He would hold with equality . . . equality by virtue, not by vice. This is to be distinguished from matters social. Equality has nothing whatsoever to do with

(Continued on Page 2)

COMING AND GOING

Juneau, Alaska — Ready to leave the hospital after an illness, Perry Hobbs telephoned for his wife to pick him up in the family car. Her office said she was on the way to the hospital—as a patient—having collapsed from exhaustion and a bad case of flu.

The Petal Paper

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P. D. EAST ..... Editor

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Diogenes . . .

whom he would spend an evening. However, equality does have to do with who can vote; it does have to do with who can serve on a jury; it does have to do with who can seek a public office; it does have to do with which God a man elects to worship; it does have to do with his right to associate with whom he pleases, and since it has to do with his right, surely it must have to do with your right also. Conversely, the same is the case . . . he would have the same right not to associate with whom he pleases.

He would hold with complete and total individual freedom in every respect . . . up to a point. He would hold that any man who so chooses has the unquestionable right and freedom to be a Jack Ass. He would give his life, if the need arose, that any one of you might bray. He would hold that any man has the right to bray. He would hold that the same man does not have the right to kick over the traces and smash the teeth of any other man . . . there he would draw the line on the limitation of individual freedom. Bray, brother, but don't kick, he would say.

He would hold that justice, with regard to law, and, indeed, anything else, must be blindfolded. Justice must not peek. She may have prejudices which would make a decision unfair. And if his lot is to suffer unfairness, then you and your children are in some danger of so suffering. He would hold that justice to him is but justice to you. Can any one of us afford not to be just?

He would hold that punitive laws are unpleaseant, but are at times a necessity. How he would get it passed is something he wouldn't know, but he would like to see any member of the State Legislature unable to accept a retainer from any business source whatsoever over which the state has any authority. In short, he would like to see men serving in offices throughout this state who would willingly put the public interest before their own personal interest. Such, he would know full well, is impossible. But in that connection, he would veto any bill which reeked of business sticking its finger into the affairs of the state . . . the state, after all is you . . . him. Since he would not allow the state to stick its finger into the affairs of business, unless the public good was concerned, he would most certainly not allow business to meddle with affairs of state. As the Church and State are separate, so should State and Business be seperate, except as mentioned previously.

He would hold that any and all persons, race, creed, or color notwithstanding, are citizens of this state, provided they have met the requirements which entitle them to citizenship. He would hold, therefore, that any member of a minority group has the same right and liberties as he has, certainly no more, nor will they be less. He would be saying once again that the law of the land must be obeyed, not that he likes all the laws so much, but he would be interested in his own rights and in order to keep them he must be interested in the rights of any other single person, no matter who. His own interests would be in direct proportion to the interest of all citizens of this nation and this state. He would respect theirs . . . if for no other reason, then because he would want themto respect his . . . and yours, too.

He would hold that if we, as Human Beings, first, American

East Side . . .

for which they gave the last full measure of devotion — that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain — that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

It would seem that trying to be an American is a real damned pain to a lot of us.

Well, enough hell raising for one day. Anybody want to buy anything? Anyone in or near Jackson will find a bargain in a house in Clinton, Miss. It belongs to John Willis, who has been teaching at Mississippi College, and who is leaving for a job in California in August. The number in Clinton is 5106, I think. Anyway, he's in the telephone book.

Potomac . . .

(Continued From Page 1)

ated by opponents of the measure who claim to be concerned about absence of "trial by jury" and the threat that federal troops will keep "black heels on white necks"

When all the verbiage is stripped away, it's this right to vote that really does concern the Southern politicians more than anything else.

If the civil rights bill passes without being too badly mangled in the process, Southern politicians may find themselves bidding for the support of Negro voters exactly as they claim Northern politicians now do. And why not?

They pretend to be virtuous about it and claim that their Northern opponents are for civil rights only for political reasons. At nearly every session of the Senate debate, Sen. Russell (D-Ga.) has complained that the bill is "shot through with politics". But it's not one-sided.

UPSETTING THE POLITICAL BALANCE—You get some idea of why the Dixie demogogues are so worried when you look at the registration statistics in several of the Southern states. For example:

Alabama—The number of Negroes registered was 10.3 of those entitled to vote.

Arkansas—Only 29.2 per cent of the eligible Negroes were registered.

Mississippi — The figure here

(Continued on Page 3)

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He would hold that if we, as Human Beings, first, American citizens second, and Mississippians next, would but give ourselves a chance we could lead the way to industrial progress and come close to having the social progress keep pace with it. We have kept a large segment of our population down for years. Whether you agree or not, he would hold that in so doing we have kept ourselves down. You've heard it before a thousand times, but he would repeat: You can't keep anyone down without staying down with him. Personally, he couldn't afford to stay down . . . perhaps he could, but he wouldn't want to. If his grand-father or his father had wanted to, that was their doing . . . doings of which he wouldn't approve, because had they not been so short-sighted his plight today would have been better . . . but as for him, he would hold that his child should be better off than he; therefore, he would hold back no man . . . because the possibility exists that if any man moves an inch forward, he might move a fraction forward himself.

Were that time-wasting old Greek, Diogenes, around we don't know if he'd put out his lantern. We can't be postive that we would; but, for once, we'd turn the light down low.

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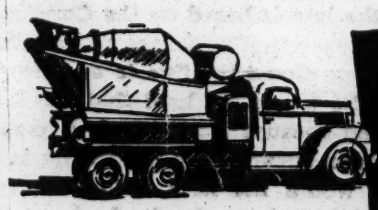

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was lowest in the nation—4 per cent.

South Carolina—The latest figures indicate 25.3 per cent of the eligible Negroes were registered.

Virginia — The total in this "cradle of democracy" is only 20 per cent.

It's not hard to understand why the entrenched Southern politician is alarmed at the thought 100 per cent of all eligible Negroes might get the right to vote, even if only half of them use it.

Dixie Politicians, especially those who have proved most responsive to the demands of Big Oil, the Power Trust and similar special interests, will now have to spend some of their time worrying about the needs of less privileged Negroes. And maybe they'll even have to pay attention to the needs of poor whites, too.

This right-to-vote business could prove awfully tiring for the mint julep set.

CALLING THE BLUFF — At one point in the civil rights debate Sen. Russell threatened to investigate the background and birthplace of the federal judges before whom civil rights cases might be tried. Suddenly, with a rather obscure explanation, he announced that he was abandoning his plans.

Could the reason have been a little job done by Congressman Charles S. Vanik (D-Ohio)- Vanik did some investigating of his own. He limited himself to the South. Of 46 federal judges, now sitting or appointed in recent years, 45 were born in Dixie, Vanik found.

Among the Southern judges were Russell's late brother, a son

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Not News, But

State Has Mightiest Magnolia

The largest Magnolia tree in this country grows on Mississippi soil, just north of Pascagoula, according to the American Forestry Association's listing of big tree "champions".

The "champion" Magnolia tree has a height of 51 feet, a crown spread of over 90 feet and a circumference of 12½ feet at a point 4½ feet from the ground.

By waiting for the flower to develop into cones and then counting the cones, which fall from the tree as they mature, it is estimated that one year the "champion" had 9000 delicate white blossoms for which the Magnolia is famous.

Like many other things of beauty, the Magnolia bloom is short-lived, lasting from two to four days.

How old the tree is no one knows, but a 90-year-old resident of Pascagoula remembers the tree as "being just about like it is now" when she was a little girl.

Low Acreage Seen In Cotton Report

Mississippi has its smallest cotton acreage in cultivation since 1868, the Mississippi Crop and Livestock Reporting Service reported.

It is 1,400,000 acres, or 15 per cent under last year's acreage. By districts the average is: Upper Delta, 348,000; North Central section 180,000; Northeast, 114,000; Lower Delta, 376,000; Central

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The name of Argentina is derived from the Latin "argentum," meaning silver.

of former Sen. Tom Connally of Texas and the father of segregationist Gov. Timmerman of South Carolina.

JUST THE FLICK OF A FINGER from a speeding automobile. A glowing cigarette lands in a clump of sun-dried grass. In minutes, the roaring blaze of another range fire races across the land.

Our open ranges are particularly susceptible to fire because of the quickness with which the flames spread. The term "go like wildfire" is handed down from the pioneers who knew only too well the dreaded speed and devastation of these holocausts.

Each year thousands of acres of valuable range lands are blackened in the U.S. Range fires burn grain, cattle and other livestock—destroy farms and ranches. The tragic part of all this is that range fires can be prevented! Because 9 out of 10 range fires are caused by carelessness—yours and your neighbor's.

Pledge yourself to be extra careful this year with matches, smokes, campfires, clearing fires—*any* fire. Make sure every spark *is* out—*dead* out!

Remember—
Only you can

PREVENT RANGE FIRES!

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"Handicamps" Weeks Set To Begin Aug. 14

Over the state crippled children are eagerly looking forward to attending "Handicamps" sponsored by the Mississippi Society for Crippled Children and Adults. Applications are now being accepted for the two-week camp to be located at Ocean Springs which opens Aug. 14.

At this camp, the only one in the state operated exclusively for crippled children, there will be the opportunity to enter into swimming, arts and crafts and athletic activities within the individual child's ability to compete. These and many other activities usually reserved for the normal child provide handicapped children many physical and emotional outlets so necessary for adjustment.

Although this camp is operated on a non-profit basis, a small fee is charged. Throughout the state, organizations and individuals with big hearts are underwriting the cost of indigent children attending camp. A campership is $45.00 which is applied toward room, board, health and accident insurance, linens, materials and counseling.

The camp will again be under the direction and supervision of Myron A. Lockey, Jackson, a registered physical therapist. Mr. Lockey will be assisted by Miss Judy Bowling, Hattiesburg and Miss Peggy McKeithen, Jackson. The director and both of these counselors have had considerable experience with the handicapped and in the field of recreation. The kitchen staff has been engaged and a water front director will be employed.

The following requirements must be met before a child can be admitted to camp. (1) The child must be between the ages of eight and 19 and be orthopedically handicapped. (2) Required immunizations must be up to date, these can be obtained at the local health department. (3) The parent or sponsor is responsible for transportation to and from the camp.

Applications and additional information concerning camp or providing camperships may be obtained by writing "Handicamps", Box 191, Jackson, Miss.

This is not an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy any of these securities. The offer is made only by the Prospectus.

NEW ISSUE JULY 22, 1957

1,000,000 Shares

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HOG PRICES

Hog prices are expected to rise to a three-year-high this summer carrying retail pork prices up with them, according to the Agriculture Department. Hog prices will probably be highest from mid-June to mid-August. What happens after that probably will depend on how many new pigs are born this fall. If pig production rises no more than 4 to 6 percent, price declines next winter are not expected to be severe.

KEEP THIS AD

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LOCAL CHURCH SERVICES

TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH, JACKSON STREET, PETAL

Services begin with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m., Bill Barlow, Supt. Preaching at 11 a.m. and 7:15 p.m. by Rev. Justin Garrett, pastor. Baptist Training Union meets at 6:15 p.m. Mid-week Prayer meeting is held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday. GA's meet after school on Mondays, and RA's meet before prayer meeting on Wednesdays. Song services are under the direction of O. U. Barlow, Mrs. Jack Fikes, pianist.

Church nursery open at all services.

PETAL METHODIST CHURCH, MAIN STREET, PETAL

Services begin with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m., W. C. Mathis, Superintendent.

Rev. J. P. Payne, Pastor, preaches at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

WSCS meets at 2:00 p.m. on Mondays.

Mid-Week Prayer Meeting is held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. Choir practice follows prayer meeting.

Song services are under the direction of Mrs. B. L. Coulter;

GREEN'S CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH, OLD RICHTON ROAD, PETAL

Services begin at 9:45 a.m. with Sunday School, Robert Powell, Supt.

Q. C. Barrett, Pastor, preaches at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Prayer Meeting is 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays . . . following prayer meeting all organizations meet . . . YWA's, GA's, RA's, WMU, Brotherhood, and Sunbeams.

Song services are under the direction of W. C. Rainey, Jr.; pianist is Miss Polly Morgan.

The public is extended a cordial invitation to attend services. Nursery is open at all services.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CENTRAL AVENUE, PETAL

Services begin with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. Henry Hardy, Supt.

Rev. W. A. Richardson, Pastor, preaches at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Baptist Training Union meets at 6:30 p.m. Sundays.

Mid-Week Prayer meeting is held at 7:00 p.m. Wednesdays.

Song services are under the

PETAL-HARVEY BAPTIST CHURCH,

Services will begin with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m., Pat Rogers, Supt.

Rev. Sam W. Waggener, Pastor, preaches at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Training Union meets at 6:45 p.m., C. E. Richardson, Director.

Mid-Week Prayer meeting is held at 7:30 pm. Wednesdays at Richton Road and Harvey Mission prayer meeting is held 7:30 p.m. Thursdays.

Song services are under the direction of Mr. Charles Caulkin; Mrs. W. H. Clearman, Organist, and Mrs. Mazie Nell Smith, pianist.

The public is cordially invited to attend; the nursery is open at all services.

PETAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MAIN STREET, PETAL

Services begin at 10:00 a.m. with Sunday School, H. L. Norsworthy, Supt.

Evangelist Howard S. Williams preaches at 11.00 a.m.

Bible Class meets Sunday from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Choir practice is held Wednesday nights at 7:30.

Song services are under the

Common Capital Stock

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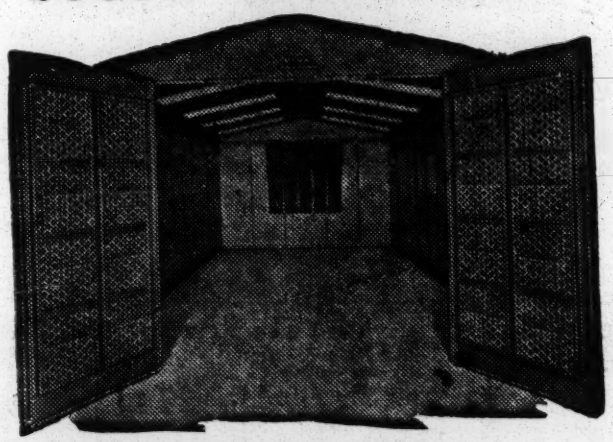

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Church nursery open at all services.

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Baptist Training Union meets at 6:30 p.m. Sundays.

Mid-Week Prayer meeting is held at 7:00 p.m. Wednesdays.

Song services are under the direction of Mr. Ford Parker; Mrs. J. M. Van Devender, pianist.

The public is cordially invited to attend.

Nursery is open at all services.

p.m. Thursdays.

Song services are under the direction of Mr. Charles Caulkin; Mrs. W. H. Clearman, Organist, and Mrs. Mazie Nell Smith, pianist.

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Evangelist Howard S. Williams preaches at 11.00 a.m.

Bible Class meets Sunday from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Choir practice is held Wednesday nights at 7:30.

Song services are under the direction of Mrs. D. L. Priest; pianist is Miss Bernice Norsworthy.

A cordial invitation is extended the public to attend services each Sunday.

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